

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 278 ACTION STATE INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA
MADRAS JULY 20.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 0278

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, IN, VM

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

1. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" AND THE
"INDIAN EXPRESS," AN INDIAN VESSEL ARRIVED IN THE PORT OF
MADRAS JULY 19 WITH 91 VIETNAMESE RESCUED FROM A SINKING
SMALL BOAT IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA TEN DAYS EARLIER. INDIAN
AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY HAVE NOT PERMITTED THE REFUGEES TO
DISEMBARK IN THE ABSENCE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND THE CASE
HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
THE HOME MINISTRY IN NEW DELHI.

2. THE REFUGEES ARE ABOARD A SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA
CARGO SHIP, THE LAXMI." THE VIETNAMESE, CONSISTING OF 55
MEN, 36 WOMEN AND 17 CHILDREN LED BY A CATHOLIC PRIEST RE-
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PORTEDLY FLED VIETNAM JUNE 28 FOR HONG KONG AND WERE IN A
STATE OF EXHAUSTION AND HUNGER WHEN RESCUED BY THE LAXMI.
THE LAXMI ATTEMPTED TO LAND THE REFUGEES AT SINGAPORE BUT
WAS REFUSED PERMISSION AND SO BROUGHT THEM TO MADRAS. SINCE
THE LAXMI IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE PORT JULY 22 UNDER CHARTER,
THE SHIP'S AGENTS ARE REPORTEDLY NEGOTIATING WITH TAMIL NADU
STATE HOME MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO LAND THE REFUGEES TO BE

HELD IN CUSTODY UNTIL THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MAKES A DECISION
ON THEIR FUTURE. GOHEEN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: REFUGEES, SHIPS, SEA RESCUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: SREF, IN, VM
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